

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DATE 4/3/2014

Committee Members Present: Paul DeFazio, Larry Thomas, Jeff Anderson, Kevin Powers, Larry Stern, Thom Freeman, Heidi Krockta, Cal Calnan, Patrick Mosesso, John Chlebek

Members Absent: Tracey Metivier, Sue Dring

Others Present: Lorraine Brue, Ginny Coppola, Randy Scollins, Bob Cutler, Dick Heydecker, Jim Devellis, Deb Giardino, Heather Harding, Roger Hill, Kevin Weinfeld, Sharon Wasson, Mike Stewart, Steve Udden, Jerry Cirillo

Notes taken by: Kristin Meehan Papianou

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00PM by Paul DeFazio, Chairman.

7:00PM – Roger Hill, Kevin Weinfeld and Sharon Wasson - Scenic Roads Bylaw Article 27 – If a tree is taken down, it has to be replaced in an equivalent caliper number. Discussion of the impact of scenic roads designation, benefits and concerns.

Article 28 – Complete Streets Bylaw – Roger advised that this requires that the DPW do a plan for anything beyond a simple repair or street sweeping. This is a cost issue because a plan requires a survey and surveys are expensive. It also requires a determination of right of ways. Kevin Powers asked if this bylaw would enable Roger to do anything that they can't currently do. Roger said that it doesn't. He said that this has been taken on by the State with no funding provided to the communities. Discussion of potential funding sources and access to that money. Additional discussion of the impact of and obligations created by this bylaw. Jeff Anderson asked for specific cost information but Planning Board was unable to provide an estimate. Jeff suggested it would be difficult to support this bylaw without an understanding of the cost. Discussion of the asphalt maintenance program and the condition of the roads. Discussion of the current level of discretion in approach to project planning vs the mandate of the bylaw. Larry Thomas asked if residents can get input into the work that is done. Roger said that it would be done through public hearing (requiring a two thirds vote).

No further questions from Ad Comm.

7:50PM Paul advised that we're going to move on to the Operating Budget. Randy said the Board of Selectmen voted to support the budget as recommended by the Town Manager.

122 Selectmen – the difference this year is \$1000.00. No comments or questions.

123 Administration – the difference is less \$60,000 this year. No comments or questions.

125 Audit – flat budget. No comments.

127 HR - \$2K lower this year. No comments.

130 Finance – less \$75,000 this year. No comments.

141 Advisory Committee – flat budget. No comments.

142 Reserve fund – flat budget. No comments.

151 Legal – increase of \$20,000. Hold requested.

156 GIS Department Expenses – flat budget. No comments.

161 Town Clerk – less \$2677 this year. No comments.

162 Election and Registration up \$400. No comments

171 Conservation Commission is up \$10,729 Heidi Krockta requested a hold

175 Planning Board is up \$45,403. Jeff Anderson requested that this article be held.

176 Appeals Board. No comments.

192 Municipal Building - \$280,368 dollar increase – hold by Larry Thomas

195 Town Buildings – even. No comments.

210 Police – up \$302,656. All contractual. No comments.

220 Fire – down \$6855. No comments.

230 Central Dispatch – up \$11,000. No comments.

235 Joint Public Safety Building up \$11,390. No comments.

241 Inspection up \$5770. No comments.

292 Animal Control up \$602. No comments.

300 Foxboro Public Schools \$1,100,108 up Heidi Requested hold.

390 Southeastern Regional up \$18,979. No questions or comments.

410 Public works is up \$8170. No questions or comments.

411 Solid Waste landfill up \$38,200 No questions or comments though Roger told us if the solar project goes through this cost will go away.

412 Solid Waste Collection No questions

423 Snow and Ice up \$1900. No questions or comments.

424 Street Lighting up \$5000. No questions.

430 Solid Waste Enterprise (Landfill). No questions.

433 Solid Waste Enterprise Collection - \$0 No questions.

450 Water Enterprise up \$92,402 no questions.

460 Sewer Enterprise \$55,982 No questions.

510 Board of Health 2216 up. No questions.

520 Health Agencies \$536 No questions.

541 Counsel on Aging – Down \$400. Larry Thomas requested a hold.

543 Veterans – Down \$2992. No questions.

610 Library up \$37,289. No questions.

630 Recreation – up \$11,000. Hold requested.

691 Historical Commission up \$13,925. Hold requested.

710, 751, 760 Debt service down \$77831. No comments

911 Pensions and retirements. No comments.
913 Workers Comp. No questions
914 Unemployment Compensation. No comments.
915 Group Health and Life – Down \$14,191. No questions.
945 General Insurance up \$35,000. Hold Requested.

8:15PM Motion to approve the non-hold items brought by Paul DeFazio seconded by Larry Thomas.
Vote: 10-0-0

Discussion of line 151 Legal question by Jeff Anderson for clarification of increase. Randy Scollins said that it's not allocated to any particular issue; it's just that we seem to be over by about that every year.

8:19PM Motion to accept the legal budget as proposed brought by Jeff Anderson. Seconded by Cal.
Vote: 10-0-0

Discussion of Department 171 Conservation: Heidi wanted clarification for the increase. Randy and Bob both offered more information.

8:25 PM Motion to accept the conservation number the Town Manager recommended (\$61192) brought by Heidi Krockta. Seconded by Thom Freeman.
Vote: 8-1-1
Paul DeFazio against.
John Chlebek abstaining.

Discussion of Planning Board Department 175. The increase is to take a part time position to a full time position. Bob Cutler explained that they had asked all department heads to level fund but Planning Board did ask to increase their position to support their grant writing process. Liaisons support this increase. This is an additional \$29,000.

8:25 PM Motion to accept Department 175 as proposed brought by Jeff Anderson. Seconded by Cal.
Vote: 9-0-1
Larry Stern abstaining.

Discussion of 192 Municipal Buildings. Larry Thomas said that there is a \$250,000 item embedded for rental space which hasn't been found yet. He suggests that we shouldn't have this figure in and printed as Ad Comm recommendation. Larry Thomas suggested we vote in a number of \$86,500.

8:32PM Motion to accept Department 192 expenses be recommended in the amount of \$86,500 and that the salary line remain as proposed brought by Larry Thomas . Seconded by Thom Freeman.
VOTE: 10-0-0

Department 300 Foxboro Public Schools was held. Larry Stern said that the majority is salaries – Larry Thomas confirmed. Paul DeFazio said that he hopes when the new town manager comes in that the department heads will be challenged to look for opportunities to cut rather than having budgets raised every year. Bob Cutler said that he’s been very impressed by the School Board budgeting process. Discussion of declining enrollment and the comments that have been made publicly by Dick Heydecker (who had left the meeting). But the schools have expanded programs and opportunities for students such as robotics and AP classes. Randy discussed “bottom line autonomy” – which allows the schools to have their entire budget voted in a single line.

8:48PM Motion to accept the town manager recommended School Budget figure brought by Larry Stern. Seconded by John Chlebek.

Vote: 8-0-2

Kevin Powers and Jeff Anderson abstaining

Kevin Powers requested that we discuss the Library contract before completing the budget review. Ad Comm agreed. Kevin Powers discussed the contract and highlighted changes. He indicated that wages increased by 2% for FY 2014 and by 2% for FY 2015. Provisions also allowed management of staffing for Sunday hours. Bob Cutler advised that this also moves the library staff to bi-weekly pay. Discussion of the financial impact of the 2%. No further questions.

541 Council on Aging and Human services discussion by Larry Thomas. Randy advised that they requested 10 hours for a new position and then increased it to 19 hours, but Town Clerk is recommending the 10 hours. Bob reiterated that they believe the new Town Manager needs to have the opportunity to come in and make his own evaluations for staffing levels. Larry Thomas said that the population is aging while the school enrollment is declining and this important service should be supported. Discussion of the grant dollars that they currently use to fund the 10 hour position.

8:59PM Motion to approve the Council on Aging budget salary line be the \$330,629 requested for a total of \$381,492 brought by Larry Thomas. Seconded by Larry Stern.

Vote: 7-2-1

Jeff Anderson and Heidi Krockta against.

Kevin Powers abstained.

9:03PM Discussion of Department 630, Recreation. Randy advised that this department is funded through their program revenues which go into their special revenue revolving funds rather than into the General Fund. The majority of their budget is supported through this fund. The goal is to move them to a completely self-sufficient model. Here they’ve requested some help to improve the tennis courts. They’ve used their revolving account money for the fencing after being denied funding from the general fund. They are here on the tennis courts now which they don’t derive revenues from. Jeff Anderson asked where the turf replacement is funded from. Randy said that they set up a new revolving fund on the school side because this is a school asset. Those funds can only be spent on turf related issues.

Patrick asked how the Recreation Department is set up. Discussion of the employees and the Board. Kevin Powers handed out a document entitled "Recreation Revolving Fund and Tennis Court Re-surfacing Information". Kevin Powers discussed revenue generating vs non-revenue generating assets and advised that the tennis courts are a non-revenue generating asset, so using the Rec. Dept. revolving fund to pay for repairs will draw down the fund.

Larry Thomas asked why the tennis courts are in the Rec Department budget if this kind of repair shouldn't be paid out of their revolving fund. If the goal is for the Rec Department to be self-sufficient, then they shouldn't have non-revenue generating assets which will keep them from realizing that goal. Additional discussion on this point. Agreement that, in the future, another group should take responsibility for the tennis courts. Some discussion that it should be the schools.

9:36PM Motion to approve the Recreation Department budget as recommended by the Town Manager. Seconded by Thom Freeman.

VOTE: 8-2-0

Patrick Mosesso and Paul DeFazio against.

691 Historical Commission discussion. Larry Stern asked how many people go through Memorial Hall annually. Jen Savickas said she thinks it's about 450 or so. Larry Stern asked who is realizing the benefits of the investment if so few people are visiting the building. Discussion of community support and the need for better advertisement going forward.

9:49PM Motion to approve 691 Historical Commission budget as recommended by Town Manager brought by Larry Thomas. Seconded by Thom Freeman.

VOTE: 10-0-0

945 General Insurance discussion. Jeff Anderson asked about the increase and Randy explained that it is attributed to various assets including the Library and town vehicles.

9:52PM Ad Com discussed CIP. Paul asked for CIP holds.

Animal Control: John Chlebek

Historical: Larry Thomas

Animal Control - John Chlebek questioned the need for the type of truck that is being requested and the amount of money in the request. Discussion of the type of work that animal control does and the need for 4WD on occasion.

Historical Commission – discussion of the grant money that may be available and the request for \$350,000 which is based on the dollar for dollar structure of the grant. Randy advised that if no grant funds are realized, then we would spend \$175,000. Discussion of the condition of the building and the last major repair work (done during the 1980s). Ginny Coppola talked about the rededication of the soldier statue which was the start of Founders Day in Foxboro.

10:17PM Motion to accept Article 5 the CIP budget of \$5,585,973 brought by Kevin Powers. Seconded by Larry Thomas.

VOTE: 8-2-0

Larry Stern and Patrick Mosesso opposed.

10:19PM Motion to accept the minutes from 3/19/14 brought by Larry Thomas. Seconded by Cal.

VOTE: 8-0-2

Jeff Anderson and Larry Stern abstained.

10:20PM Motion to Adjourn by Pat Mosesso. Seconded by Larry Thomas.

Vote: 10-0-0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting:

Vote:

Signature of Chairperson

Signature of Secretary